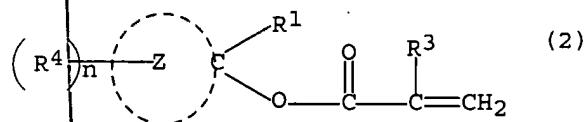


wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group;  $R^2$  represents an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group;  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group;  $n$  represents an integer of not less than 1; with proviso that all  $R^4$ s are not concurrently hydrogen atoms, and  $R^4$  may be varied according to  $n$ ; the Z ring represents a polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon ring;  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may, jointly and together with adjacent carbon atom, form an alicyclic hydrocarbon ring,

or by the following formula (2)



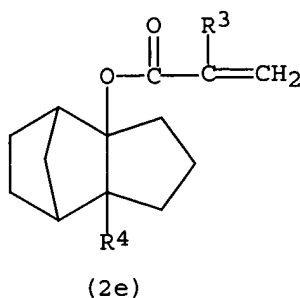
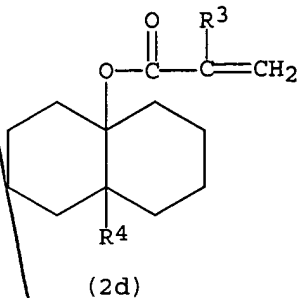
wherein  $R^1$  represents an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group;  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen-containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group;  $n$  represents an integer of not less than 1; with proviso that all  $R^4$ s are not concurrently hydrogen atoms, and  $R^4$  may be varied according to  $n$ ;

and Z represents a polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon ring selected from the group consisting of spiro hydrocarbon rings, ring assembly hydrocarbon rings, fused-ring hydrocarbon rings, and bridged rings, wherein the bridged ring is selected from the group consisting of tricyclic hydrocarbon rings, tetracyclic hydrocarbon rings and hydrogenated dimers of dienes. ?

C2 3. (Amended) The acid-responsive compound according to Claim 1 wherein, in the formula (1), the Z ring is a bridged ring-type hydrocarbon ring comprising 2 to 4 rings.

C3 8. (Amended) The acid-responsive compound according to Claim 7, wherein R<sup>1</sup> in the formula (1a) is a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, and R<sup>1</sup> in the formula (2a) is a straight-chain or branched-chain C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; at least one of R<sup>4</sup>s is at least one oxygen-containing group selected from the group consisting of oxo group, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a cycloalkyloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aralkyloxycarbonyl group, hydroxymethyl group, carbamoyl group, an N-substituted carbamoyl group and nitro group.

9. (Amended) An acid-responsive compound represented by the following formula (2d) or (2e);



wherein  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen-containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group.